

House Energy and Technology Committee
Michigan House of Representatives
Testimony in support of HB 5334



Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Due to adjournment of the committee on Tuesday, October 20, 2009, I was unable to provide testimony in support of HB 5334. I will not be available to travel to Lansing for the Tuesday, October 27, 2009, continuation of testimony before the committee. Please accept these written comments as a summary of reasons the City of Riverview supports HB 5334.

The City of Riverview owns and operates a municipal solid waste landfill which accepts household waste from 15 local Downriver communities in southern Wayne County. The landfill has operated a methane to electricity facility since 1987 which generates electricity for approximately 24,000 residents while preventing greenhouse gases from releasing to the atmosphere. The 1995 Yard Waste Ban reduced the facility's methane availability and imposed a significant expense of separately collecting and managing residential yard waste.

In the current difficult economic conditions faced by the City of Riverview and Downriver communities, the option for managing yard waste provided by HB 5334 provides significant benefits. The City of Riverview would save over \$60,000 in reduced collection costs. Additional methane generated by landfilling Riverview's yard waste would enhance electric generation and subsequent royalties to the city. Utilizing yard waste to generate electricity is an environmental enhancement, a form of both recycling and renewable energy, and a diversion and destruction of dangerous greenhouse gases. Communities that desire to continue composting yard waste would remain free to do so.

Lastly, the bitter irony of the 1995 Yard Waste Ban is that the implementation resulted in the City of Riverview being required to comply with an unfunded mandate to separately collect yard waste. The Riverview yard waste, removed from the city owned landfill where it generated methane, was transported to a compost facility at another landfill, where after nominal composting, the final compost product destination was in that other landfill.

The City of Riverview supports HB 5334.

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